

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated, rejected claims 44 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious, and allowed claims 1-18. Claims 1-18 and 42-45 remain in the application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-18.

The rejection for anticipation was based on Yamazaki. Yamazaki teaches a describes a passivation layer that has silicon, aluminium, nitrogen, oxygen, and another material that is selected from a number of possibilities. One of these other possibilities is lanthanum. The purpose of this passivation layer as stated at column 4, line 38, is to "protect the light emitting layer 108 from moisture and oxygen. Claim 42 has been amended to make it clear that the claimed dielectric feature has only the four elements claimed. Thus, the claimed dielectric does not have silicon present whereas Yamazaki does have silicon present. Claim 43, which depends on claim 42, already makes it clear that the dielectric only has "nitrided lanthanum aluminate" by using the phrase "consists of." This claim 43 thus further specifies that the basic structure is lanthanum aluminate with nitrogen present. Thus, applicants submit that these claims patentably distinguish from Yamazaki.

The rejection for obviousness was also based on Yamazaki. With regard to claim 44, applicants submit that the uses claimed are not suggested by a passivation layer such as that disclosed by Yamazaki. Further claim 45, as amended, specifies that the dielectric feature be a gate dielectric. This use is especially not suggested as a use by the passivation layer of Yamazaki.

As a point of information, applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on July 25, 2003, however the PTO form that listed these references in that submission has not yet been initialled by the Examiner and returned.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully solicited. Please contact the below-signed if there are any issues regarding this communication or otherwise concerning the current application.

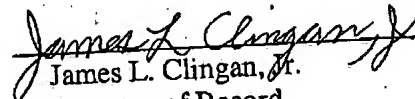
Respectfully submitted,

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